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ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

AUGUST, 1844.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE LONDON PEACE SOCIETY.

The twenty-eighth anniversary of this Society was held in Finsbury Chapel, London, May 21, 1844, CHARLES HINDLEY, Esq., M. P., in the chair, and a very large number in attendance. After the reading of the Report by the Secretary, Rev. JOHN JEFFERSON, the meeting was addressed by the Chairman, Professor WRIGHT, of New York, J. S. BUCKINGHAM, Esq., GEORGE THOMPSON, Esq., Rev. CHARLES STOVELL, and others. Having failed to receive the number of the London Patriot containing the speeches, we can now give only the substance of the Report, a document of great interest and value, sent us in a pamphlet from the Society's office.

CHIEF ITEMS OF THE REPORT.

“The first General Peace Convention, which at the time of the last annual meeting was in immediate prospect, was held as proposed on the 22d of June, 1843, and the two following days. A full account of its proceedings having been published, and many thousands of copies of its resolutions circulated, it is not necessary here to do more than report on its general results, and state what has been done by the Committee of the London Peace Society to carry out its decisions. Whatever fears were entertained beforehand, as to the propriety of that measure, they were all dissipated in the Convention itself; and the influence which it has exerted upon the public mind has been of a decidedly favorable character. Attention has been excited, in many quarters, where the pacific doctrines of Christianity had been wholly overlooked before; and facilities of action have been originated, which find their limit only in the restricted resources of the Society, and the consequent difficulty of providing suitable agency to carry on the work.

“The resolutions of the Convention on *the Wars in the East, the Opium Trade with China, and the adoption of the principle of Arbitration for the adjustment of all international disputes*, were immediately after its sittings, lithographed, and sent to all the members of the British Legislature, to each of the learned judges, and to the official representatives of other governments who were at that time in this country, with a note requesting their attention to them.—The *Memorial to the Governments of the Civilized World*, protesting against the practice of war, and urging the insertion of a clause in all international treaties, binding the parties to refer all differences to arbitration, has been duly engrossed, and presented or forwarded to fifty-four of these governments; including all those of Europe, and all to whom access could be obtained in the other quarters of the globe. This memorial was in every case accompanied with a letter explaining its origin, and inviting due consideration of its contents. Several acknowledgements of its reception have reached the Committee.—Five of the *Papers read at the Convention* have been printed in separate form as tracts; and the suggestions on *the Means of carrying out Pacific Principles*, as embodied by the Convention in a series of resolutions, have been constantly kept in view as the basis and guide of the general proceedings of the Committee.

“Our active measures during the year have been an endeavor to carry out those resolutions; and may be suitably recorded in the order in which they were adopted.—1. In the matter of *Arbitration*, the Committee are prosecuting inquiries, both in this country, on the continent, and in America, with a view to ascertain what cases of dispute between nations have been settled by this means since the year 1815, and what has been the pecuniary cost of such reference.

“2. Fully sympathizing with the Convention in the opinion, *that the time is fully come for making additional efforts to diffuse the principles of peace*, the Committee resolved to make arrangements for lectures and meetings in different parts of the metropolis, with the ulterior view of forming associations, if it should be found desirable and practicable. In connection with this effort, it was determined to prepare a declaration of the Society’s fundamental principle for signature at such meetings; a method which some of the country societies had previously adopted. The result is, that since the beginning of September last, thirty-four lectures have been delivered, and thirteen meetings held, chiefly in the city, and the borough of the Tower Hamlets. At these meetings, though the attendance has averaged only about 200 on each occasion, in the whole not fewer than 9000 persons have thus had the opportunity of listening to an explanation of the Society’s principles, &c., and nearly 2300 have affixed their names to the declaration, as convinced ‘that war is inconsistent with the spirit of Christianity, and the true interests of mankind.’ In these engagements a number of ministers and gentlemen have rendered valuable assistance. Of the above lectures and meetings, seven have taken place in Camberwell and Peckham, which have issued in the formation of an Auxiliary Society for that district. At the request of the Committee, the Rev. William Stokes, of Birmingham, and the Rev. John Stock, of Chatham, kindly consented to render aid to the cause by public lectures; the former among the dense population of the midland counties, and the latter in the county of Kent. Mr. Stokes has delivered nine lectures, and Mr. Stock four; in the whole to about 3000 persons. Both these gentlemen have rendered their services gratuitously, the expenses of their engagements only being borne by the Society.—Mr. Rigaud, the Society’s Agent, has continued his labors with but little intermission. So soon after the Convention as arrangements could be made, he proceeded to make a tour in Shropshire and Herefordshire, during which he held twenty-three meetings, fifteen for lectures, and eight for addressing Sunday and other schools. From thence he went into the disturbed districts of South Wales, to distribute an address to the Rebeccaites, urging them to abstain from violence, and ‘follow peace with all men.’ Ten thousand copies of this address were circulated in English, besides large numbers in the Welsh language. After his return from Wales, he was requested to visit Hampshire, where he spent the months of October and November. During this tour he held forty-five meetings, consisting of upwards of 10,000 persons, and distributed about 15,000 tracts. His labors were acceptable and useful. The three following months Mr. R. spent in variously assisting the efforts of the Society in the metropolis, and, at the close of February, again sailed for Brussels. From Brussels he was instructed to proceed to Holland, and visit most of the principal towns in that kingdom; to attend the annual meeting of the Christian Morals Society in Paris; from thence to go to Geneva, to endeavor to revive the peace cause in Switzerland; and on his return to visit some of the towns on the Rhine.

“3. The next resolution of the Convention was to this effect: ‘That whenever any symptoms of the approach of war in which the countries here represented in this Convention are likely to be engaged, arise, the Committees of the Peace Societies in the several countries should call upon their friends throughout the country, to awaken public attention to the subject, and without waiting for the actual declaration of war, and regardless of all political considerations or suspicions, to enter their firm but respectful

protest against such threatened war, whatever may be its pretext, or whoever may be its advocates and supporters, in such a manner as may appear to them best calculated to secure the preservation of peace.' In the spirit of this resolution, the Committee, in August last, presented a respectful memorial to her Majesty's Government, deprecating the employment of military force in Wales and Ireland, and recommended the same course to their auxiliaries, a considerable number of whom adopted it. In like manner, when the Committee perceived, from the Queen's speech at the opening of the present session of Parliament, that there was some danger of an increase being called for in the military establishments of the empire, they memorialized the Government against such an increase; they also prepared a petition to the House of Commons to the same effect, and again invited their friends to forward petitions; and fifty-five petitions were presented, praying for the reduction and removal of those establishments. When a minority of eleven members of the House of Commons recorded their opposition to the vote of thanks to the army in India, the Committee passed a resolution expressing satisfaction in their conduct, and sent a copy of it to each of those gentlemen, by several of whom it was respectfully acknowledged. The same course was pursued with reference to the four gentlemen who acted in a similar way at a special meeting of the East India proprietors. On the arrival of the intelligence of renewed aggressions in the East, and the taking of Gwalior, the Committee forwarded petitions to both Houses of Parliament, praying that a stop may be put to these scenes of injustice and bloodshed. The Committee have, besides, presented a memorial to the Government, on occasion of the fatal affray in New Zealand, and have, ready for transmission by the next vessel which shall be proceeding thither, an address to the British settlers in that colony, pointing out the sin and danger of recourse to violence, and urging pacific measures. This has been specially addressed to nearly 3000 of the male settlers, by name. The Committee had it also in contemplation to place their opinions on the case of Tahiti before both the English and French Governments, when the latter disavowed the conduct of their admirals.

"4. On the suggestion respecting *local associations*, the Committee have not been able to do much. They have endeavored to excite the existing auxiliaries to greater exertion, and two or three new ones have been organized. But for efficient service in this important department of labor, a much more extended central agency is indispensable, and, with this, a greatly increased income.

"5. *The employment of the periodical press*, as a medium of information, has not been lost sight of. Articles of intelligence have been frequently sent to upwards of 100 newspapers, &c., in town and country. Copies of the Herald have been furnished to the libraries of various colleges, mechanics' institutes, &c., as opportunity has arisen.

"6. On the *recommendation respecting the young*, three tracts have been composed by a popular writer; one designed for young children, entitled, 'Pictures of Peace and War,' a second, for those of thirteen or fourteen years of age, entitled, 'Let us try it,' and an 'Address to Young Men.' The Committee have also purchased and distributed some thousands of the Peace Series of little books, issued by Mr. C. Gilpin. And during the past winter, Mr. Rigaud was engaged on eight successive Sabbaths in delivering lectures to Sunday schools. About 2500 children and 300 teachers were thus addressed, to whom nearly an equal number of books were given. Mr. R. addressed also the Finsbury Institute for Sunday school teachers, on which occasion twenty-five of this influential class of persons signed the Society's declaration.

"*The general circulation of the Society's publications* has this year been very large. Grants have been made to missionaries and others in the following places:—Amsterdam, Basle, Brussels, Geneva, Mons, Paris, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Zurich, on the continent of Europe; Madras, in the East

Indies ; and Colombo, in the island of Ceylon ; Boston and New York, in the United States ; Barrill, Dawn, Etobicoke, Montreal and Toronto, in the Canadas ; to Antigua, Barbadoes, Hayti and Jamaica, in the West Indies ; Demarara, in British Guiana ; the Cape of Good Hope and Fernando Po, in Africa ; and the Navigators' Islands, in the Southern Pacific. Several grants have also been made to public libraries and reading rooms, to many editors of periodicals, and to a considerable number of ministers of religion and others in the United Kingdom. Many thousands of tracts have been distributed by Mr. Rigaud, and in connection with the lectures and meetings in the metropolis. The Address to Ministers, &c., by Dr. J. Pye Smith, has been sent to about 4000 public teachers of Christianity, and a further issue of perhaps equal extent is in progress. The Committee have also reprinted the American address to rulers, 'Arbitration, a Substitute for War,' and have sent it with an accompanying note, inviting the perusal of it, to the members of the British Legislature, the Judges, the Lords Lieutenants of counties, the Foreign Ambassadors, and a considerable number of the magistracy of the land,—in all about 1450 copies."

A GLIMPSE OF WAR IN ENGLAND.—“ During the year another monstrous outrage, perpetrated by the war-system, has been brought before the attention of the British public, through the instrumentality of Mr. Frederick Wheeler ; we allude to the practice of the *enlistment of pauper children from the union workhouses into the army*. The Committee were filled with an almost inexpressible degree of disgust and indignation at the discovery of this practice, and have cheerfully rendered all the aid in their power to their esteemed friend Mr. W. in prosecuting his inquiries, and bringing the case before the public. It is not improbable but that it will, ere-long, be found necessary to call for some decided and general expression of the popular mind upon this enormous evil ; and the Committee feel persuaded that, should this be the case, the friends of humanity at large will readily unite with the advocates of peace, in denouncing this fearful practice, and in endeavoring to prevent its continuance.”

INCREASE OF INTEREST IN THE CAUSE.—“ It is with great pleasure that the Committee state that, in various parts of the country, considerable activity has been displayed by the friends of peace, during the past year ; and the cause has doubtless been aided by the occasional appeals of various popular lecturers on other questions, whose references to the peace principle have every where met with warm applause. Many of our auxiliaries have kindly increased their pecuniary contributions ; and it is believed that a very general desire exists to attempt greater things ; and the Committee believe that wherever such attempts are made, they will not fail of success. Every thing in the present state of public opinion throughout the country is favorable to the diffusion and candid consideration of our views and objects ; and it is hoped that the zeal and activity of the friends of peace will correspond to the occasion.”

INCOME.—The sum raised to defray the expenses of the General Convention, was £653, 13s. 10d., or more than \$3000 ; and, with £209, 13s. 8d. from this fund, the receipts for the year, with a balance of little more than £100 from the preceding year, amount to £1796, 4s., or nearly \$9000, *besides* more than \$2000 for the Convention ; about \$11,000 in all.

¶ We cannot refrain from calling the attention of our friends to these sums in contrast with the contributions to our own treasury. Here we find nearly five times as much from the friends of peace in England as from its friends in this country the last year ! We know they made special efforts, and would not forget that the large delegation from America to the Convention must have spent some thousands of dollars from their own purses ; still these facts cannot apologize for the mass of our friends, whose contributions fell so far below those of our generous, noble-hearted co-workers in England. May the God of peace hasten the day when some wealthy friends of this cause shall, like the immortal Howard in a kindred enterprise, devote to it

thousands a year from their abundant resources. With \$10,000 a year, we would, with God's blessing, soon move the nation, and make the world feel our influence in this blessed cause.

LICENTIOUSNESS OF THE NAVY.

A disclosure of the whole truth on this subject would probably startle the community. They hear the navy eulogized as the nation's glory, while it is in fact a floating Sodom. We shall not now attempt a full exposure of its character in this respect, but will restrict ourselves for the present to a specimen or two.

In one of the documents of the late London Peace Convention on "*the moral and religious statistics of war*," containing the substance of answers given by naval officers to a series of questions, we find the following statement: "Another vice which is exhibited in a very revolting form, is *fornication*. At all the seaports, large numbers of prostitutes are found, and these, on a ship coming into port, are frequently *allowed* to come and *live on board*; though there are many officers who insist, that the marriage certificate shall be produced before permission is given for a seaman to have his *wife* on board. In foreign ports, where it is not thought convenient for the men to have permission to go on shore, women are allowed to come off in the evening, and they are sent on shore again in the morning. This is particularly adopted in the ports in India, where great danger would probably accrue to the men from the excesses they would run into on shore; and hence this horrible alternative is resorted to."

The following tale from the N. Y. Courier of last summer, gives us another glimpse at the licentiousness of the navy. "On Thursday night, between ten and eleven o'clock, a shore boat rowed by one man, and containing a young female, came along side the U. S. ship Independence, lying off Ellis' Island, and on being hailed, the female desired to know if midshipman — was on board. On being answered in the affirmative, she insisted on seeing him; but the officer of the deck told her that was impossible, as not only the regulations of the ship, but the rules of the service forbade it. She urged, implored and entreated; but the officer, actuated by a stern sense of duty, was still compelled to adhere to his original resolution of refusing her admittance on board. Finding that he was inexorable, the young girl, without a moment's thought, sprang from the boat in which she had been standing, and sunk. A seaman who had been in the fore chains, listening to the girl's conversation, saw her make the spring, and, as she touched the water, he sprang overboard after her, and a few lusty strokes brought him to the spot as she arose. He seized her, and holding her up, the shore boat dropped along side of them, and took in the unfortunate girl and her gallant preserver.

"The officer of the deck had her brought on board, and, surmising that something extraordinary must have occurred to induce the female to attempt suicide, he summoned the first lieutenant. When he reached the deck, he drew from her a history of the causes which brought her out at that hour of the night to such a place; and it was one of love, confidence, ruin, and subsequent desertion. The midshipman who was the cause of the poor girl's troubles, was called on deck, and being confronted with her, was at once recognized. What steps the first lieutenant next took with the recreant officer, we are ignorant of as yet; but the young girl was sent on shore, having first given her address, with the assurance that full and ample justice should be done, as soon as the Commodore arrived."

This assurance, we presume, was the last that the poor dupe and victim heard of redress. Redress! from *gentlemen* (!) of the sword for *such an outrage!* Such deeds of female ruin are generally matters of pride and